

Length of stay FAQs



Bolton Hospice
caring from the heart

How long will I stay in the hospice?

Patients come to the hospice for a variety of reasons and every patient is different. **For some their stay may only be a few days, for others much longer.** However, the hospice is not a long term place of care. Therefore, if or when a patient stabilises during their admission then discussions will begin regarding discharge options.

Will I just be discharged?

No. We recognise the complexity of patients who come to the hospice and so discharge will not happen suddenly. **If we feel discharge is appropriate then it will be discussed with you and your loved ones/another representative** to explore your wishes. Many options are explored during this process including discharge home with care support or alternative care facilities such as nursing homes. There will be a team of people involved in coordinating this including the clinical team, social workers and discharge coordinator.

Can I come back?

Yes. Patients often return to the hospice for periods of symptom management or end of life care. **There is not a set limit to the number of times you can be admitted.** If it is appropriate to return, your health care team can make a referral to us.

What if the hospice is my PPD (preferred place of death)?

While we will always try to respect and honour people's preferences we cannot always facilitate these in every case. Hospice admissions are prioritised based on need and clinical urgency. **If someone is well cared for and settled in their current setting e.g. home then it may be that care is more appropriate to continue in this setting.** For those patients in a nursing home, we would expect their needs to be met by the nursing professionals in the care home during the last days of life. Therefore, transfer back to the hospice is not usually required unless there are complex symptoms that need managing.

Who can I speak to for more information?

If you still have questions or would like more support relating to your length of stay at the hospice, **you can ask to speak to our Patient Liaison Nurse Stephanie Johnson** between 8.30am - 4.30pm, Monday - Friday.